

Exclusions possible

Big changes for Cooperative Program

By Craig Bird
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists are being challenged to give \$20 billion a year through local congregations by the year 2000. (1980 giving was \$2,315,149,038.)

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention will receive a report in February from the 25-member Cooperative Program Study Committee it appointed last year to consider making recommendations to the SBC annual meeting in Pittsburgh in June.

Also to be considered will be a significant change in the Cooperative Program.

The 15-step "Planned Growth in Giving" anticipates each Baptist indi-

vidual, family, church and regional convention to respond with a percentage increase in giving through the Cooperative Program each year from 1985 through 2000.

"Giving patterns in the Southern Baptist Convention have not changed in the last 20 years; and if we pull it off with this program, it will be dramatic," said Cecil Ray, executive secretary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and a member of the study committee writing team which drafted the basic document. "To match a dream you have to have deliberate and planned commitment—these goals are within reach but awesome enough to scare us."

"The dream" Ray referred to is

Bold Mission Thrust, the SBC effort to present the message of Jesus Christ to every person in the world by the year 2000. The SBC launched Bold Mission Thrust in 1977, but the 1983 meeting will be the first at which long-term funding of the program will be addressed.

The heart of the plan is the week-long training of 700 church and denominational leaders to lead state-sponsored Planned Growth in Giving Conferences. The state conferences will be three-day sessions with a pastor and a layman from each of the convention's 36,000 churches invited. "The cost in dollars and time for the training is large—but the benefits are even larger," Ray explained. "We

have never asked pastors and laymen to give three days to this type of meeting, but that is what it will take for Planned Growth in Giving to be successful."

The change in the Cooperative Program, the SBC voluntary contribution plan which underwrites national and worldwide mission and educational efforts, will be the first major change since the Cooperative Program was created in 1925.

Presently all gifts to the Cooperative Program are divided among all SBC agencies according to a budget approved by messengers to the annual SBC meeting. The study committee is suggesting churches be allowed to "exclude certain causes" and still have their gifts considered as Cooperative Program contributions.

"No one is comfortable with undue exclusions; but if we're going to ask for theological diversity in unity within the convention, then we should provide for flexibility in funding," said Randall Lolley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N. C. and chairman of the writing team.

"This is a good statement," agreed Dan Vestal, pastor of First Baptist Church in Midland, Texas, which has

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Pro-Israel resolution to be reintroduced in Pittsburgh

By Stan Hasty
WASHINGTON (BP)—A resolution supporting the state of Israel, tabled by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans last June, will be reintroduced at this year's SBC in Pittsburgh, the chairman of the 1982 resolutions committee says.

Norris W. Sydnor Jr., a Maryland pastor, told an audience of several hundred at a "National Prayer Breakfast in Honor of Israel" he will introduce the volatile statement again. He predicted it will be adopted.

Sydnor also presented a plaque engraved with the resolution's wording to the Israeli consul-general in the U.S., and added: "We Southern Baptists are committed and we give our continual support and we pray for the peace of Jerusalem frequently." He strongly implied the presentation was made "on behalf of 14 million Southern Baptists."

In New Orleans last June, the statement was brought to the floor by a resolutions committee dominated by

political and theological "conservatives," but was twice turned down by messengers.

The resolution, which expressed "strong" support of Israel and urged that the U.S. government "publicly and privately assure Israel and her enemies of such support," drew spirited debate and was referred back to the resolutions committee for revision.

When it came back to the floor for a second time, the resolution's author, James DeLoach of Houston, and R. Keith Parks, president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, made a dramatic joint appearance on the convention platform in which Parks said such a resolution could endanger the lives of SBC missionaries and representatives.

The resolutions committee, nonetheless, presented their resolution for adoption. Messengers, however, voted to table the pro-Israel resolution.

Informed of Sydnor's actions, Parks said in Richmond he is "deeply con-

cerned" about the statements themselves and also that these statements may be misunderstood both by Southern Baptists and by Israel and other

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Golden Gate chooses Pollard as president

The trustees of Golden Gate Seminary were scheduled to meet Tuesday for the purpose of electing a president to succeed Bill Pinson, now the executive director of the Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The search committee was to submit the name of Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, San Antonio, as its nominee to become the next president of the seminary.

The meeting was to be held in San Francisco, across San Francisco Bay from Strawberry Point, where the seminary is located, on the other side of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Pollard was pastor of First Church, Jackson, from 1975 to 1980. He was awarded a doctor of divinity degree by Mississippi College in 1976. Other pastures have been Shiloh Terrace Church, Dallas; First Church, Tulsa, Texas; First Church, Dimmitt, Texas; First Church, Seagraves, Texas; and

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Vickery, Brock named

SBC Committee on Committees named

By Dan Martin
EULESS, Texas (BP)—James T. Draper Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has announced the committee on committees to serve at the 1983 annual meeting of the SBC in Pittsburgh in June.

The committee on committees, made up of two representatives from each state convention which qualifies for representation on boards and agencies, has the primary task of recommending a committee on boards at the annual meeting. The committee on boards in turn nominates persons to serve as trustees of the 20 boards and agencies of the 13.8 million member denomination.

In making his announcement, Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, followed up on a pledge he made following his election at the 1982 annual meeting to announce his appointments prior to the convention, to give Southern Baptists time to study and react to them.

Draper told Baptists Press he "feels very positive" about the slate of appointments. "A large percentage of those we named were recommended by people in the state offices—executive secretary, state president, or someone in the office."

"We did put in some persons who

were recommended by individuals. I felt it was important for individual Baptists to have the freedom to make recommendations and to feel they would be seriously considered," Draper added. He said the appointments "are what I said I would do. These people are known conservatives. They are not extremists, not liberals. They are recognized as conservative, supportive of the Cooperative Program and missions causes."

John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., and SBC first vice president, said he supports the appointments. "If we have made any mistakes, it is certainly not due to negligence... we have worked very hard on it."

Gene Garrison, pastor of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, and SBC second vice president, said the officers worked on the appointments for "six weeks. We made the kind of effort which has to be made. You don't just sit down on Monday afternoon and jot down some names of appointments. It is a long and involved process."

He added he "does not know all of the people who were nominated, but they were all recommended by state leadership. I feel very good about it."

The appointments:

ALABAMA—Jack Hill, business-

man and member of First Baptist Church of Lafayette, and Dwayne Lassiter, pastor of Central Park Baptist Church in Birmingham.

ARIZONA—Leroy Summers, minister of music at First Southern Baptist Church in Phoenix, and David Butler, registrar at the University of Arizona and member of Sabino Road Baptist Church in Tucson.

ARKANSAS—Gerald Taylor, pastor of Life Line Baptist Church in Little Rock, and Cecil Weller, retired executive with the Boy Scouts of America and member of Grand Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Smith.

CALIFORNIA—Bill Hann, pastor of Mid-Cities Baptist Church in Westminster, and Bob Byrd, a dentist and member of Bristol Street Baptist Church in Santa Ana.

COLORADO—Lewis Adkison, pastor of Circle Drive Baptist Church in

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Elder will head Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Lloyd Elder, 49, was elected without opposition as the seventh president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board Feb. 1 to succeed Grady C. Cothen. Elder has been executive vice president of Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, since 1978.

Although no negative votes were cast, two trustees abstained. Robert Tenery, pastor of Burkemont Baptist Church in Morganton, N. C., and Ned Matthews, pastor of Parkwood Baptist Church of Gastonia, N. C., both said, however, that they plan to support Elder.

After he was nominated by Warren Hultgren, vice chairman of the presidential search committee and pastor of First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., Elder outlined his "personal testimony concerning the grace of God in our lives."

He then answered questions from the 82-member board of trustees for more than one hour on questions including leadership style, the Bible, and relationships with different groups in the denomination.

Elder is expected to move to Nashville April 1 to begin a 10-month orientation process before assuming the presidency when Cothen retires Feb. 1, 1984.

In a brief post-election statement, Elder said, "The time for searching

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Postage higher, subscriptions same

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Seminar will deal with abortion issue, Page 3

Dunn downplays Baptist drop, Page 5

First prison ministry consultation planned

The first-ever Mississippi Prison and Jail Ministry Consultation is to take place Mar. 11-12 at Parchman.

John McBride, director of the Cooperative Missions department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, reports that this meeting is the "first move toward the development of a statewide network which will connect the jail ministries and the prison ministry together for sharing, education, witness, and ministry."

It will include a tour of the penitentiary at Parchman, an overview of the Parchman Prison Ministry by Ovis Fairley, its director, and by Granville Watson, Sunflower County director of missions.

Mississippi commissioner of corrections Morris Thigpen will present an overview of the Mississippi correctional system and parole board member C. B. Burt will speak on "Insights into the Parole Process."

Chaplain Rod Padgett will discuss the Parchman chaplaincy program. Sid and Kay Taylor will speak on "Prison Evangelism Outreach."

Home Mission Board staffers Harold Wilcox and Huey Perry will speak respectively on "Skills and How to Acquire Them," and "Networking... Is it the Way?"

For further information, contact McBride at Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, phone 968-3800.

Wm. Carey kicks off \$2 million campaign

Chief executives of local banks, the Mayor of Hattiesburg, area businessmen, and ministers, meeting Jan. 31 at William Carey College to "kick-off" the 1983 Development Campaign for Carey, heard Campaign Chairman Bobby Chain, mayor of Hattiesburg, announce that a development campaign was beginning with initial gifts already in hand amounting to \$791,350.

The five year campaign has an overall goal of \$2 million, which will be used to strengthen the academic programs and resources of the college.

Following a meeting of the combined boards of trustees and development in the morning, the advance gifts committee met at noon in the President's Dining Room at Carey to kick off the campaign.

Joining these groups at the luncheon were members of the college administrative council, news personnel, and college deans. Special guest at the luncheon was Miss Mississippi, Dianne Evans, who has represented Carey in the Miss Mississippi pageant and was named second alternate in the Miss American pageant.

The major thrust of the campaign, headed by Bobby Chain, will include four phases in its solicitation. The advanced gifts phase of the campaign will continue into February when the Hattiesburg special gifts phase be-

gins. Also taking place in February will be an alumni "phonathon." In March, the activities will broaden to include the branch cities in the campaign. Honorary co-chairmen for the campaign are Wiley Fairchild and Paul W. McMullan.

The \$2 million development program goal has been set as a foundation to "strengthen the academic programs of the college and provide student aid," according to Carey President.

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Frank Pollard

Loving Church, Loving, Texas. He was associate pastor of First Church, Big Spring, Texas.

He is a native of Olney, Texas, and attended public school in Graham, Texas. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University, where he was a varsity baseball player. He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary.

Since 1975 Pollard has been the host

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James Draper describes "Missing Link" in religious broadcasting

By Stan Hasty
WASHINGTON (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President James

T. Draper told the nation's religious broadcasters they must complement rather than compete with the local church if they are to fulfill their mission.

Draper, the keynote speaker to the 40th annual convention of the National Religious Broadcasters, told an audience of 2,800, "the missing link in much of religious broadcasting is the primacy of the strategy of Christ through the local church."

For radio and television preachers to tell their listeners and viewers they can discharge their obligation to tithe their money by sending in a check is neither "godly" nor "biblical."

Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Tex., said that while he personally contributes offerings above the tithe to religious broadcasters and asks his people to do the same, "we must never put those two (local church and broadcasters) in competition... Folks, there's plenty to go around. You do what God tells you to

do, and you magnify the local church, and God will take care of your needs... If that's not true, God is a liar, the Bible is false, and Jesus is not Lord."

Draper said further that "to put electronic arms to the churches" instead of "simply binding believers to the personalities of the communicators in television and radio may be the greatest challenge you face for the immediate future."

He also suggested electronic preachers give preeminence to the Bible and center their message in the Lordship of Christ. "The subtle temptation of the religious broadcaster is the same temptation that I face as a pastor," he said, "and that is to fashion the message to the tastes of the people."

He warned the broadcasters to beware of their industry's "basic principle" of shading the message for the securing of the viewer and the listener. "In the setting of religious

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"And I will show you a still more excellent way."

Observe Race Relations Sunday

February 13, 1983

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

Published Since 1877

Committee on Committees

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Colorado Springs, and Dale Mountain, member of Trinity Baptist Church of Loveland.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—Mrs. Worth Grant, a former missionary to Japan and member of Temple Baptist Church of Washington, and Steve Hyde, pastor of First Baptist Church of Silver Springs, Md.

FLORIDA—Jim Wilson, an evangelist and member of First Baptist Church of Orlando, and Jerry Passmore, pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola.

GEORGIA—Robert Marsh, pastor of Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church of Atlanta, and John McCoy, former medical missionary to Nigeria, and member of Northside Baptist Church of Tifton.

ILLINOIS—Everett Anthony, director of missions of the Chicago Metropolitan Baptist Association, and Rex Hodge, a construction contractor and member of Logan Street Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon.

INDIANA—James Ehrlich, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Evansville, and Wallace Denton, professor of family life ministries at Purdue University and member of Calvary Baptist Church of West Lafayette.

KANSAS/NEBRASKA—David Cone, pastor of Country Acres Baptist Church in Wichita, and George Delahoussaye, member of First Baptist Church of Bellevue, Neb.

KENTUCKY—David Nelson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Owensboro, and Phyllis Ann Green, member of Northside Baptist Church of Mayfield.

LOUISIANA—Perry Sanders, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lafayette, and Raymond Boswell, member of Highland Baptist Church of Shreveport.

MARYLAND—Hugh Townsend, pastor of First Baptist Church of Berlin, and Terrance Hart, a Westinghouse Corp. executive and member of Faith Baptist Church of Glen Burnie.

MICHIGAN—Milton Wood, pastor of Gorham Baptist Church of Jackson, and Judy Gill, member of First Baptist Church of Swartz Creek.

MISSISSIPPI—Harry Vickery, member of First Baptist Church in Greenville, and John Brock, pastor of Van Winkle Baptist Church of Jackson.

MISSOURI—Mark Brister, pastor of First Baptist Church of Bolivar, and Ted Garrison, a physician and member of First Baptist Church of Camden.

NEW MEXICO—John Preston, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church of Farmington, and Fred Maldonado, Jr., member of Templo Bautista in Las Vegas.

NORTH CAROLINA—Sam Currin, federal prosecutor and member of Hayes Barton Baptist Church of Raleigh, and Glen Wilcox, owner of a travel agency and member of First Baptist Church of Asheville.

NORTHWEST—(Washington/Oregon)—Darrell Evenson, director of missions of the Inland Baptist Association in Portland, Ore., and Doug Franklin, member of Trenton Avenue Baptist Church in Bremerton, Wash.

OHIO—Glenn Davidson, pastor of Pisgah Heights Baptist Church in Westchester, and Jim Dobbs, member of Dublin Baptist Church in Columbus.

OKLAHOMA—Jim White, pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, and Joe Coleman, member of First Baptist Church of Tulsa.

SOUTH CAROLINA—Horace B. Sims Jr., pastor of Abney Memorial Baptist Church of Greenwood, and Harry Dent, member of First Baptist Church of Columbia.

TENNESSEE—Fred Steelman, pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church of Chattanooga and president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Wendell McClindon, member of First Baptist Church of Donelson.

TEXAS—Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, and Mrs. Frank Stewart, a member of First Baptist Church of El Paso.

VIRGINIA—L. W. Bray, an Air Force major general and member of Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, and George Kissinger, director of missions of the Peninsula Baptist Association in Newport News.

(Martin is BP news editor.)

Elder elected to head Sunday School Board

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has passed and a time for commitment has come." He said his commitment is "first and eternally to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord" and then cited his family, the local church, the Bible ("God's inspired Holy Word"), the masses "lost without Jesus Christ," and the Southern Baptist Convention and its Cooperative Program.

Of the Sunday School Board and its 1,500 employees, Elder said he will seek to "give team leadership to enable the board to fulfill its 16 programs of work assigned by the convention" and that he will seek to learn all he can in the next year from Cotten "as he continues to give strategic, devout and superlative leadership to the board."

Before the election, Elder described the work of the search committee as "probing, gracious, thorough and prayerful."

Calling the election process "an awesome time for the board and for the Elder family," Elder, in his preliminary statement, posed and answered five questions about himself: Who are you? What do you believe? How do you do your work? How do you see the Sunday School Board? How do you discern the will of God?

Describing himself as a "take-charge team leader," Elder said, "I would characterize my style of leadership as pastoral—caring for people but not permissive."

He said love, character, vision and a sense of high purpose are vital qualities for a leader who also must have "courage to decide and move out in the face of all risk because of the possibility of good."

He added: "There is no more important decision than choosing your people." Summarizing, "I like to work with people and ideas and I love to preach the gospel," said Elder, who was a pastor for 16 years in four Texas churches before becoming assistant to

the executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1975.

Elder called for a balance of power between the president and the trustees. "I have seen the dangers of trustees moving into administration," said Elder. "It is equally dangerous for the president not to know he guides by leave of the trustees."

About the Bible, Elder said, "I believe the Bible is a Holy Book, divinely inspired by God, infallible and authoritative in the life of every believer. I didn't arrive at this by reading the 1963 statement ('Baptist Faith and Message')," he noted. "A reverence for the Bible was a part of the Elder family. The more I tested that faith presupposition, the more I came to see the Bible as a Holy Book."

Concerning diversity of beliefs among Southern Baptists, Elder warned against staking out positions on any 15 or 16 "major Christian doctrines and making them a test of fellowship."

"I want to state clearly those things that unite us and not make doctrinal positions a test of fellowship on either side," he explained. "I do think Baptists are going to do better when we major on what God can do among us and not become embroiled in tests of fellowship on any one of our particular doctrines."

On criticism, Elder drew laughter when he acknowledged, "I don't like it." However, he noted, "Administratively and pastorally, I have tried to find out what is coming to my attention through the criticism."

With his installation in 1984, Elder will become the first president from west of the Mississippi River and the first from Texas. The three most recent presidents—T. L. Holcomb, James L. Sullivan, and Cotten—are natives of Mississippi and grew up in towns within a 30-mile radius.

Tithing and worship



In seeking to establish worship for the people of Israel after they had crossed the Jordan into the land of promise, Moses commanded the people to utterly destroy the idols of the pagans, tearing down, smashing, and burning them (Deut. 12:2).

As for them, "You shall seek the Lord at the place which the Lord your God shall choose from all your tribes, to establish his name there for his dwelling, and there you shall come. And there you shall bring your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes . . . you shall not do at all what we are doing here today, every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes" (II Chr. 12:5-6,8).

From biblical antiquity, tithing and worship have been integral parts of the same experience with God. Tithing is a tangible way of acknowledging God's ultimate ownership and man's obedient managership. It helps man remember who God is and who man is. It puts things in the right perspective.

Since Eden, Satan has tried to get every son of God to repeat Adam's sin, the sin of substituting his will for God's will. No greater danger faces men of faith today.

In Col. 4:14, Paul mentions the beloved physician Luke and Demas to the Colossian church. In II Tim. 4:10-11, Paul explains that "Demas, having loved his present world, has deserted me . . . only Luke is present with me.

Pick up Mark and bring him with you."

Mark had forsaken Paul and Barnabas but Mark came back to the Lord and to the work. No such mention is ever made of Demas. Demas found the words of Jesus to be true: "Ye cannot serve God and mammon (money)". Demas chose money and walked out of the biblical story.

In the membership of churches today are persons who make a profession of faith but who rarely attend and rarely, if ever, give. Such persons are not pleasing God and are wasting their lives, talents, and resources on unworthy pursuits. Such disobedient persons are not "getting by" with their folly, they are only building up evidence for "the judgment of the great day" (Jude 6).

True salvation is not only an escape from the fires of perdition; it is an opportunity to serve a risen Savior.

The Magi from the East when they arrived in Bethlehem, " . . . came into the house and saw the Child with Mary his mother; and they fell down and worshiped him; and opening their treasure, they presented to him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh" (Matt. 2:11).

Wise men today follow their noble example.

(This series is prepared by the department of Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion.)

Draper describes "Missing Link" in broadcasting

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broadcasting, he declared, that practice "is to be tempted to produce a counterfeit gospel. . . . It contributes to the confusion in the marketplace as people with itchy ears listen for what they want to hear rather than what God wants them to hear."

Noting that the federal government has already deregulated radio and is moving toward deregulation of television, Draper warned the "wasteland" of television "will become even bleaker" as industry executives "make virtually all their decisions marching to the rhythm of a cash register." He predicted that deregulation "will usher in the most tragic days that America has ever seen."

Despite his pessimism, Draper said there are "springs of hope" in the field of broadcasting.

Tops in 1982 per capita—to Cooperative Program

Church Name	Association	Cooperative Program Gifts	Per Capita Giving
Prentiss	Jeff Davis	106,994.35	203.41
Center Ridge	Kemper	7,200.00	180.00
F B C Yazoo City	Yazoo	143,100.60	144.98
Highland	Northwest	15,474.25	139.40
FBC Leland	Washington	73,456.77	129.78
FBC Columbus	Lowndes	193,873.27	126.13
Calvary	Winston	20,049.83	114.57
Enon	Winston	3,864.53	113.66
FBC Brandon	Rankin	127,155.87	105.34
Berwick	Mississippi	3,542.00	104.17
FBC Winona	Montgomery	66,272.05	103.06
FBC Grenada	Grenada	121,522.54	101.01
FBC Corinth	Alcorn	63,912.57	98.17
Rawls Spgs	Lebanon	60,603.19	94.98
FBC Poplarville	Pearl River	45,468.20	92.41
FBC Wiggins	Gulf Coast	57,939.41	91.38
Woodville	Mississippi	27,557.03	88.60
Hickory	Newton	20,383.09	87.85
Broadmoor	Hinds-Madison	251,675.43	87.69
FBC Vicksburg	Warren	113,359.40	87.26
Myrtle	Union Co.	9,362.96	86.69
Calvary Tupelo	Lee	98,904.82	86.45
Centerville	Mississippi	26,789.17	85.86
FBC Cleveland	Bolivar	70,799.68	85.71
New Concord	Jasper	511.00	85.16
FBC Crystal Spgs	Copiah	85,065.16	84.64
Union	Clarke	12,330.75	83.88
FBC Columbia	Marion	106,226.94	83.84
Duncan	Bolivar	5,755.76	83.41
FBC Rolling Fork	Sharkey Issaq	24,908.64	81.40
FBC Newton	Newton	55,958.33	80.16
Providence	Franklin	9,964.00	78.45
FBC Amory	Monroe	69,580.18	76.71
FBC Waynesboro	Wayne	45,622.14	75.91
Fairview	Lowndes	94,858.33	76.64
Faithview	Hinds	3,183.32	74.03
Union	Pearl River	49,138.56	73.78
Goodwater	Lauderdale	4,719.95	73.74
Hathorn	Jeff Davis	4,046.50	72.25
Crosby	Mississippi	6,859.73	72.20
FBC McComb	Pike	80,513.08	72.01
Shubuta	Clarke	17,479.92	71.92
Lyon	Riverside	23,031.10	71.08
Pelahatchie	Rankin	25,101.81	70.51
Tate Street	Alcorn	38,497.33	70.25
Midway	Lauderdale	49,321.87	70.15
Russell	Lauderdale	15,356.20	69.48
Trinity	Clay	11,304.23	68.92
Washington	Adams	23,112.24	68.37
FBC Ripley	Tippah	39,579.91	68.35

January giving jumps over '82

Mississippi Baptists began their 1983 giving to the Cooperative Program January with a 13 percent jump over their giving for January of 1982, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Total income to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which receives the gifts and distributes them to Mississippi Baptist and Southern Baptist causes, was \$1,217,037. January giving a year ago was \$1,076,552.

However, on a pro rata basis, to reach the 1983 budget of \$15,071,000, monthly giving would have to average \$1,255,917. This means that January was \$38,880 under budget.

Pro-Israel resolution

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Even though rejected in New Orleans, ideas contained in the resolution have caused the Foreign Mission Board ongoing problems during the intervening months in some parts of the Arab world, where Southern Baptists maintain the large majority of their missionary contingent in the Middle East.

"Southern Baptists as a convention have not taken any official position regarding the state of Israel," Parks said. He noted that the denomination has representatives or missionaries in many Middle Eastern and other countries around the world whose work could be affected by such a stand.

"Historically, our understanding of the scripture indicates our responsibility is to preach the gospel to all people. At a time when our convention is caught up in Bold Mission Thrust with this as its overarching goal, any resolution which would make this task more difficult or create greater obstacles in

Golden Gate committee nominates Frank Pollard

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for The Baptist Hour radio program or the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission; and since 1977 he has been the host for the national television program, At Home with the Bible.

Charles Carter, Jackson attorney, is chairman of the trustees of Golden Gate Seminary. He said, relative to the nomination of Pollard as seminary president:

"Golden Gate Seminary is one of the newer of the Southern Baptist Seminaries, established in the West in 1944. Then Southern Baptists were virtually unknown in the West, and a great majority of the people had no active church relationship. Great progress has been made in the work of

Southern Baptists there, and Golden Gate Seminary has been a leading influence in it. The area in which it is located is characterized by a strong multi-ethnic culture; and significantly, about 20 percent of the students of the seminary are of oriental descent.

"Frank Pollard has a high-priority commitment to missions, both home and foreign. He is one of the most outstanding preachers in America, an unusually effective communicator. He has devoted himself unrelentingly to the preaching ministry. His kind of preacher is greatly needed in large numbers in the West to build strong, evangelical churches."

Pollard has served as vice-chairman of the Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, as a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and of its Executive Committee, as a Bible professor at West Texas State University, as a trustee of Howard Payne University, and as president of the Southwestern Seminary alumni organization in 1978.

Employment Opportunity

FACULTY POSITION IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

RESPONSIBILITIES: Teach courses in business administration at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Desired areas of concentration are accounting, finance, management, marketing, and/or economics. **QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE:** Doctorate in some area of business, or ABD with substantial progress on dissertation. **APPOINTMENT DATE:** Not later than Sept. 1, 1983. **CLOSING DATE:** March 15, 1983. **SALARY & RANK:** Salary competitive, dependent on qualifications and experience. **HOW TO APPLY:** Letters of application and confidential papers should be directed to:

Dr. David Knight, Dean
College of Applied Arts & Sciences
Wayland Baptist University
Plainview, TX 79072-6998
Phone: (806) 296-5521

An application or nomination should be in writing to be considered. It should contain a resume of personal, educational, denominational and professional background and experiences; evidence of participation in organizations and community involvement; record of both church and professional growth, activity and leadership roles; official transcripts; a list of references; and the reason for applying for this position. Wayland Baptist University is a four-year liberal arts, sciences and selected professional and graduate studies institution related to the Southern Baptist Convention with distinctive Christian emphasis, located on the High Plains south of Amarillo and north of Lubbock.

Wayland Baptist University
Plainview, TX • Phone (806) 296-5521

GABRIEL in CONCERT



Robin Lyle

Jeff Walter

8:00 P.M. February 12
First Baptist Church
430 N. President
Jackson, Mississippi
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Editorials

by don mcgregor

"A more excellent way"

Mississippi has become a state of racial diversity. We have sizeable representatives of all of the major racial groups in the world. There are oriental representatives in the Delta and along the Gulf Coast as well as in other areas, there are Mexicans to be found in scattered pockets all across the state, there are Indians gathered for the most part near Philadelphia and on the coast, and of course there are black and white residents all over the state. It behooves us, then, to be able to

achieve harmony among the races in order that we may dwell in peace and security in our land. And we are aware that finding racial harmony demands more than facing a black and white issue. We, all of us, live among people of all races.

Feb. 13 is Race Relations Sunday across the nation among Southern Baptist churches. And while harmonious relationships among peoples of different races is a condition that must be

continually honed toward perfection, this Sunday is the time for paying particular attention to the need.

The theme for the observance is "A More Excellent Way." The scripture passage that has been selected by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission to draw attention to the observance is I Corinthians 12:31b. It reads, "And I will show you a still more excellent way."

Always we are to seek a more per-

fect understanding. Always we are to seek a more excellent way. This is as true in our relationships with those of other races as it is with any other circumstance of life.

Let us remember and make this concept a part of our lives. God is no respecter of persons. Neither should we be.

In Mississippi the observance is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

Postage higher, subscriptions same

The Baptist Record's postage costs have gone up this month, but we have not increased our subscription rates, and we will not. They will remain the same throughout this year unless an additional postage hike of gigantic proportions takes place in October. There will not be one before then.

We moved from Step 13 to Step 14 in a 16-step subsidy phase-out process this month. Very likely we will move to Step 15 on Oct. 1. We expect the move from Step 13 to Step 14 will mean about a 16-percent increase in postage rates. The move on to Step 15 will be another increase of like proportions.

We are not unfamiliar with those kinds of rates. On Jan. 10, 1982, we were moved from Step 10 to Step 16 overnight, and we lived with that rate until late in July. We kept our subscription rates constant through most of the year because we had put a small increase into effect on Jan. 1, 1982.

About the middle of July, however, just before the postage rates went down to Step 13 unexpectedly, we were forced to announce a rise in subscription costs to take place Sept. 1. They were not raised again on Jan. 1 of this year, and they will not be raised during 1983.

As the postage rates skyrocketed last year, many of the Southern Baptist state papers cut back on the number of issues. We did not. We felt that a newspaper needs to continue on a regular basis if at all possible. And at an annual subscription cost of \$5.52 on the Every Family Plan, we feel that the Baptist Record is still a bargain. That is just a little over 11 cents per copy. Because it is billed monthly, the Every Family Plan costs only 46 cents per family per month.

That is surely a bargain in today's economy. We do appreciate the continuing

confidence exhibited by Mississippi Baptists in the ministry of the Baptist Record. We have lost some subscribers since the subscription price was raised on Sept. 1, as would be expected. We are still solidly in third place in the number of subscriptions among the 24 state papers, however, in spite of the fact that Mississippi is eighth in Baptist population. We don't speak of our circulation in order to brag about it but to express appreciation for continued confidence.

The Baptist Record has one simple purpose. That is to aid the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in their mission of witnessing to the world. Our concept of the world is that it begins in the pew of the church and stretches around the globe and back to the pew again. We try to accomplish our purpose by seeking to help the church members be better able to function as church members by pro-

viding the information and inspiration they need in several forms so that they will be able to do that.

We are the publication of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Our efforts are guided through counsel offered by a convention-elected Advisory Committee. We will continue to seek to serve the convention through service to the churches that are affiliated with it to the very best of our ability.

We express our appreciation for the support of Mississippi Baptists and we ask that you will continue to join us in this ministry as we face these uncertain but challenging times that are ahead of us. The Baptist Record is the best source of information there is on the status of our efforts to witness to the world and for help on continuing them.

We are right in the middle of Bold Mission Thrust, and we intend to stay there.

Guest opinion . . .

The shining leadership of seniors

By Perry Gibson

Senior adult, what do you have to offer? What can you offer the world at our age, let's say, 70? Or what can you offer your family at 65? Or your church at 60? We spend most of our lives in development. It is true that at around 55 years of age, we start to slow down physically. But with this physical slowdown, the mental can take up the slack provided we have prepared our lives correctly. We can rely on wisdom.

All of our lives we have had to accept or reject certain things from a personal experience. We cannot be taught anything. We must learn some things through trial and error, through hardship and heartbreak. There is a constant struggle for the mind of a man, a fight between good and evil, right and wrong, wise and foolish. It is only after these personal battles that we develop our true character and personality. We constantly evaluate the things we have been taught, the things we read, the things we see. We have to deter-

mine if this "glitter" has value or if this "dull gray" object is worth while.

Well! If we spend most of our life in development, then tell me why (!?) at some point between 55 and 75 years of age we suddenly say, "I'm retired." "I'm not going to hit a lick at a snake." "This is something, in my opinion, that has been taught to my generation. We have been taught to work like a dog all of our lives to the neglect of self, family, and friends toward that pie in the sky retirement. Then we put on a shelf this vast store house of 'know-how' in exchange for a rocking chair or a garden hoe.

I reject this; and, senior adults, I urge you to reject this! Our society has taught us that security was what we wanted. Security, mind you, not usefulness! Now, I believe that this security opens new doors to us for being useful. Security has given us one great tool over the young. We don't have to compromise. We can stick to what we believe. We can devote the remainder of our lives to being really useful/un-

selfishly useful.

When I was a child, there was a grandmother in my house. She raised me. I try to think of early contacts that I had with my mother. I can't. I'm sure she must have cooked, sewed, and cleaned; but it was "mama," my grandmother, who took me places and read me books, who told me stories and washed and dressed me. She could certainly feel wanted and needed. So what?

Fellow senior adults, think of the opportunity God has given to us. Fair health, free time, the ease of the burden of making a living, and a clear mind. We, too, even at our age, have a chance to do something to make our lives count. All of us have a "God-given" gift to be developed to serve him. If it's not developed, it is wasted. We can use it for no other purpose. We can all do something, and many doing a little means just as much as a few doing much.

What can you do? Many things. Get out of your shell. Say: "I'm somebody."

I have experience, not just job experience." Most people prove competent in the mechanics of the job they were trained to do. But I'm speaking of life experience. (Here is where people fail.) I'm speaking of how to get along with your fellow man, of how to handle a budget, of how to handle alcohol abuse, of how to handle high tempers, of how to be a good marriage partner, of how to handle drugs. These are the things most people learn through trial and error. "School or the taught concept" has not taken control. But our generation can advise. We have been through these problems. We have survived. So! Help those in need. Visit the sick. Pray intercessory prayer. Be available to advise. Smile. Be a friend. Use those neglected skills.

Yes, Seniors! There is still a chance to be more worthy of our longevity. Throw the shell from over your light and start to shine, friend, shine!

Perry Gibson is director of the Adult Sunday School Department at First Baptist Church, Bay St. Louis.

"Prayer for Spiritual Awakening" will feature Kennedy, Beasley, Greer



Greer

The Mid-Mississippi Prayer for Spiritual Awakening Conference, Mar. 2-3 at First Church, Kosciusko, will feature the preaching of J. Hardee Kennedy and Manley Beasley, and the music of evangelist Hubert Greer of Brookhaven.

Kennedy is vice president for academic affairs emeritus, New Orleans Seminary. Beasley, a native of Mississippi, is an evangelist based in Dallas.

This conference is jointly sponsored by the Attala Baptist Association and

the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Evangelism department. On Jan. 31, there was a Brotherhood kick-off rally attended by 110 men.

The conference begins with a Wednesday evening service at 7. All Attala churches participating will move their Mar. 2 services to First Church, Kosciusko, to begin the conference.

Don Womble, pastor of Unity and North Union churches, associational music director will direct a combined choir during sessions. Guy Henderson,

Mississippi Baptist evangelism director, will make a special presentation concerning "Spiritual Awakening in America." And Joe Blackwell, pastor of Williamsville Church and associational evangelism chairman, will discuss revival preparation.

Purpose of the conference, according to Henderson, will be to "give comprehensive information and spiritual motivation in creating an atmosphere for spiritual awakening across our state."

New Northwest church site bought

A new church site has been purchased in Northwest Baptist Association, with a check for \$50,000 from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Five acres of land were bought for a new church in DeSoto County on Getwell Road south of Staline Road, south of Memphis. This was done after a study of the situation was made by the Associational Missions Committee and the Associational Administrative Committee, and after final approval was given by the Associational Executive Committee on Jan. 8.

The new mission, which will be meeting on the site, is sponsored by the Greenbrook Baptist Church. Ervin

Brown, director of missions, reports that it will be called the Summerwood Baptist Chapel.

The New Church Expansion Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board took a look at the area, voted to buy the site, and then sent \$50,000 to pay for the land in full. Also the Convention Board will deliver a mobile chapel to the site for use until a building can be constructed.

The site is at the Summerwood subdivision, which already has 30 houses. A group of around 40 expressed interest in the mission and were present for an orientation meeting.

Elmer Gray to retire as California editor

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)—Elmer L. Gray, editor of the California Southern Baptist since January of 1974, has announced his retirement, effective July 31, 1983.

Gray, 64, made his announcement at the closing session of the executive board of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California Jan. 25.

Lewis of Redwood City, Wayne Reynolds of Escondido and Joy McClung of Hollywood.

Gray, who will be 65 in March, came to the editorship of the 27,000 circulation newspaper from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., where he had been academic dean. He held the dean's post from 1970 to 1974. Previously, he was manager of the Sunday School department at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville for three years, professor of church administration at GGBTS for eight years, and pastor of three churches in California.

Big changes, exclusions possible

(Continued from page 1)

been among the leaders in Cooperative Program giving for 20 years. But he said he would oppose additional changes to allow for totally designated giving.

Ray said, "We don't question any individual's or church's right to designate, but I don't think you can designate all your contributions and call it cooperative—because it isn't."

Cooperative Program giving has become a focal point in the struggle within the SBC between inerrantists and moderates. Inerrantists have protested being forced to support seminaries and agencies they disagree with while moderates have maintained tampering with the Cooperative Program would wreck the mission support program.

Several regional conventions, notably the Baptist General Association of Virginia, have adopted similar "negative designation" plans which have been successful. Conrad Johnson, pas-

tor of Salem Baptist Church in Salem, Va., said giving actually increased statewide since churches were allowed to exclude agencies they did not feel they could support.

If the change is adopted it will be watched closely since even small percentage changes will produce large dollar changes within the Cooperative Program—especially if Planned Growth in Giving is adopted and successful.

The biggest impact of Planned Growth in Giving would be at the local church level. The committee is recommending that each of the 36,000 churches increase giving through the SBC Cooperative Program each year so that in 2000 they are budgeting at least 7.5 percent more to the Cooperative Program than they gave in 1985. Approximately half of the member churches presently give less than four percent.

The 34 regional conventions, which receive the individual church contributions and then distribute the money between its own programs and the national unified giving plan, will be asked to move toward a 50-50 split. Three conventions (Florida, Georgia, and Oklahoma) now send 45-48 percent of their income to the national level and are planning to be at the 50-50 level by 1985. Most other conventions send between 20-35 percent.

The committee is suggesting the Executive Committee of the SBC name a 15-member Planned Growth in Giving task force of pastors, laypersons, directors of missions, SBC agency personnel, state executive directors, and state stewardship directors.

A national director of the effort also would be named by the Executive Committee. Both the task force and the national director would be set up for a period not to exceed five years.

The committee also is recommending the states pay for two-thirds of the cost of the training and promotion and the SBC operating budget provide the other third.

The part of the \$20 billion per year

flowing into SBC churches by 2000 could produce a national budget of \$1.25 billion. Of that amount, the plan designated 75 percent to fund the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board. This past year the two mission boards received 66.34 percent of the \$93.34 million national Cooperative Program receipts.

To reach the projections will require a real growth in giving of 300-350 percent beyond inflation but according to Ray the goals are actually, "conservative projections, based on solid data." Lolley noted, "what we are doing is asking Southern Baptists to give to world missions what it costs to buy one 1983 Nimitz class aircraft carrier."

Each member of the committee who spoke noted the key to the program is the involvement of the laity.

"This whole program starts with the family sitting down at home and talking about what God wants them to do," Lolley said. "We need a challenge, bold but bite-sized, to fund Bold Mission Thrust. Planned Growth in Giving requires a quantum leap but we think we can place before Southern Baptists a challenge to make that quantum leap."

(Bird is BP feature editor.)

Carey kicks off campaign

(Continued from page 1)
dent J. Ralph Noonkester.

Part one of the development program will lead to the enrichment of the present programs of the college. Curriculum revision and faculty development will be included in this program part as well as strengthening student services and fiscal management.

Part two of the program will involve five major projects of development. Establishing additional student scholarships and a perpetual plant fund will be the largest projects involved in the second part of the program. Additional projects will help provide instructional equipment, an upgrading

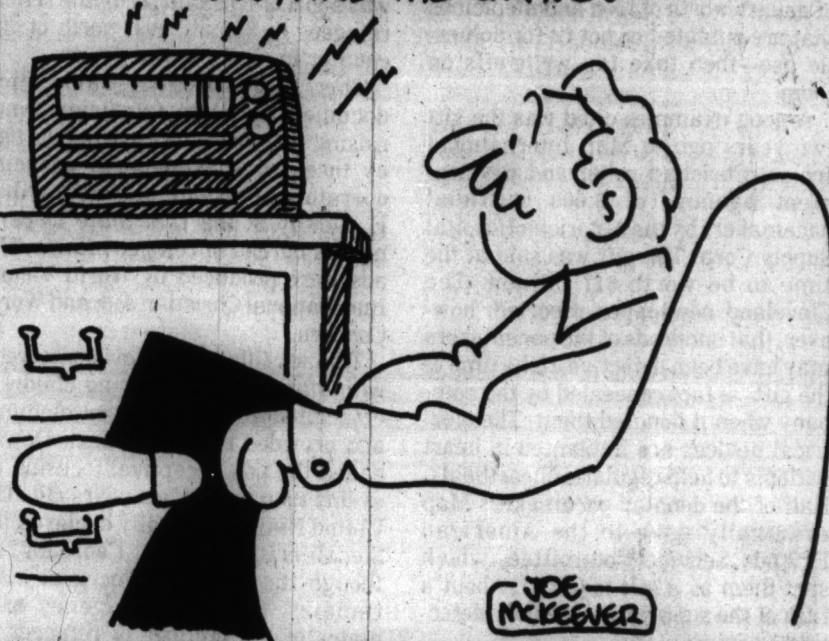
of the library, and funds for development of the Gulf Coast Campus.

Heading the advanced gifts phase of the campaign will be Rodney Fairchild, chairman of the board of the Bank of Hattiesburg. The members of Fairchild's committee are area bankers and businessmen.

John D. Thomas is chairman of the Hattiesburg special gifts committee. Activity in surrounding areas will be led by Carey's minister trustees. Campaign activities in Jackson will be promoted by Wayne Parker, a Jackson trustee; and activities on the Gulf Coast will be led by Congressman Trent Lott.

Haywood N. Stubble

"AND NOW, HERE IS LEONARD'S LOSERS— THE CHURCH WITH NO VISION WILL LOSE TO THE WORLD; THE LAZY CHRISTIAN WILL LOSE TO TEMPTATION; OTHER LOSERS ARE DEATH, HELL, AND THE GRAVE."



Faces And Places
By Anne Williams

February day

"... in everything give thanks..." (I Thess. 5:18)

Thank you for today, Lord, — For the rain that's sinking new potholes into the streets and swishing aside the piles of fallen leaves, to make little gullies in my back yard. (I am glad we don't have droughts as long as those Paul Jones said they used to have when he lived in Olney, Tex.)

Thank you for the rain-washed, red-headed woodpecker knocking away at the biscuit I tossed out to him. Thank you for the circling bluejay (though I'm mad at him right now for chasing away that cardinal).

Thank you most especially that W. D. heard the alarm clock before I did and, since he was already up, that he filled the kettle so the coffee water would be hot by the time I struggled to the kitchen.

Thank you that I remembered to pack his lunch (somewhere I got the idea that that is one of a loving wife's duties). Thank you that when he immediately unpacked it, he could find a way to rearrange every item in the bag to his own satisfaction? (Thank you that we can laugh at each other's "idiosyncrasies.") And thank you that we had some food to pack.

Thank you that my husband saw the flat tire on my car before he left for work, and changed it for me without a word of complaint, like, "Where have you been driving, to pick up this nail?" or "You ought to learn to do this yourself."

Thank you that he helped me find a place for extra cartons of food in the freezer, when I got home from the grocery store last night. Thank you for

the puddles of water on the kitchen floor this morning, and for the drama they produced: "Oh, look, how terrible!" "Where is this coming from?" "Do you think a pipe has burst?" "Is the icemaker broken?" "Maybe it's this tube leaking." "It seems to be coming down the side of the refrigerator." And the hilarious relief when we found the answer. He had laid two bags of ice on top of the refrigerator when he made room for the extra cartons in the freezer compartment, and forgotten to replace them. That's all! Thank you that I hadn't already called a plumber!

Thank you that I made it safely to work, through all the traffic (and thank you I had a job to drive to, and an extra nice boss and nice co-workers) and thank you that I got home again before the flash floods covered Fortification Street and Industrial Drive.

Thank you that W. D. already had a stew in the pot cooking, and for the aroma that greeted me when I opened the kitchen door. Thank you for the warm orange glow beckoning me to the fireplace and for the hum of the washing machine going at full speed.

Thank you, Lord, for your part in creating this husband of mine, and for giving him to me. I could never ask for a better Valentine. I love him. I really do. His birthday is Saturday, Lord. Help me to know what to get for him. When I ask what he wants, he always says, "Nothing." That's possibly true, for I know he already has a boat and 22 fishing rods.

Thank you for this day, Lord, — For the 10 o'clock weather report, and the forecast of sunshine tomorrow.

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Dunn downplays Baptist drop in 98th Congress

WASHINGTON (BP)—The decline of Southern Baptist members of Congress—from 36 in the 97th Congress to 30 in the 98th—should not be viewed with alarm, said James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. (Two of the 30 are Mississippians.)

"The vast majority of voters do not know their representatives' and senators' religious affiliation," said Dunn.

A 1982 study reveals that members of Congress take their religious orientation, values, and motivation very seriously, he said.

In the 98th Congress, six senators and 24 representatives are affiliated

with the Southern Baptist Convention. Southern Baptist members of the Senate are Thad Cochran, R-Miss.; Wendell H. Ford, D-Ky.; Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore.; Jesse Helms, R-N.C.; J. Bennett Johnston, D-La., and Strom Thurmond, R-S.C.

Among representatives with Southern Baptist affiliations are Ike F. Andrews, D-N.C.; D. Douglas Barnard, Jr., D-Ga.; Tom Bevill, D-Ala.; James T. Broyhill, R-N.C.; Dan Daniel, D-Va.; Jack Fields, R-Texas; Newt Gingrich, R-Ga.; Albert Gore Jr., D-Tenn.; Kent R. Hance, D-Texas; W. G. Hefner, D-N.C.; Jack Hightower, D-Texas; Steny Hoyer, D-Md.; Also Carroll Hubbard Jr., D-Ky.;

Earl Hutto, D-Fla.; Edgar L. Jenkins, D-Ga.; Walter B. Jones, D-N.C.; Gillis W. Long, D-La.; Trent Lott, R-Miss.; William H. Natcher, D-Ky.; Claude Pepper, D-Fla.; Carl D. Perkins, D-Ky.; Harold Rogers, R-Ky.; I. T. Valentine, D-N.C.; and Charles O. Whitley, D-N.C.

The only new Southern Baptist member of Congress is Valentine.

Roman Catholics strengthen their hold on first place

WASHINGTON (EP)—More Roman Catholics were elected to the 98th Congress in the 1982 elections than ever before, according to a new study of congressional religious affiliations released today by Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Continuing a 20-year trend, Catholics strengthened their hold on first place by adding 6 members in November voting. The new Congress will have 142 Catholics. Methodists regained second place, which they had lost to Episcopalians in 1980. There will be 73 United Methodists in the new Congress compared to 70 in the outgoing body. Prior to the early 1960's Methodists had long been the largest group in Congress.

Episcopalians dropped from second to third place, losing 10 members. They now hold 61, their lowest rep-

Campers plan spring rally

The spring rally of the Mississippi Campers on Mission will be March 25-27 at Boone's Campground, Columbia. Campers on Mission is a Baptist-related group of campers who participate in mission activities. The group's fall rally will be Sept. 23-25 at a location to be announced later.

The national COM rally will be June 24-26 at Peachqueen Campground, Jemison, Ala.



STACEY HUGHES, Acteen, was recently recognized as Queen and Queen with a Scepter, during special service at First Baptist Church, Mize. The theme was "Wherever He Leads." Mrs. Sandy Adcock is Acteen's leader. George McNeese is pastor.

Miss Mississippi to appear at William Carey

William Carey College will host an all day tour of its Hattiesburg campus, on March 4, highlighted by an appearance by Miss Mississippi, Dianne Evans, who was also second alternate to Miss America.

Carpenter's Wood, a contemporary Christian singing group made up of Carey students, will perform. High school students and junior college students will be given a tour of the campus and a chance to talk with Carey students and faculty about Carey student life.

A complimentary lunch will be served. Visiting students will have a chance to meet Dianne Evans, a Carey graduate, and with faculty in their interest areas. The tour will begin at 9 a.m. and the program will conclude at 2:30 p.m.

For more information, call Tony Pascale, Dean of Admissions, William Carey College, 601-582-5051.

Jones County BYW to meet Feb. 15

The Baptist Young Women of Jones County will hold their annual meeting Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. at West Laurel Baptist Church, Laurel. Marilyn Hopkins, state WMU consultant, will speak.

Camelot Fashions will present a style show of spring fashions. A salad supper will be served (those attending will bring their favorite salads). A nursery will be provided.

Names in the News

Kenneth Earl Warren, a Mississippian, was recently ordained to the gospel ministry by the New Life Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., where he is youth minister. Warren received the M.R.E. degree from New Orleans Seminary in June, 1982. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Warren of Columbia, Miss., and his wife, Vivian Elaine, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Wilson of Starkville. Mrs. Warren teaches in the Christian day school at the New Life Church, where Raleigh M. James is pastor.

Warren

Sidney Pitts of First Baptist Church, Terry, was honored in a recent morning service for 30 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School.

Wayne Coleman is pastor and Mrs. Peggy Champion is Sunday School director at First, Terry.

Tommy Anthony, youth director of First Church, Natchez, was named the Outstanding Young Religious Worker of 1982 by the Natchez Jaycees. This is a community award and a first in the category of religion to be given by the Jaycees of Natchez.

Sam Morgan, new pastor of College Hill Baptist Church, Calhoun County, was ordained at his home church in Coldwater on Sunday, Jan. 16.

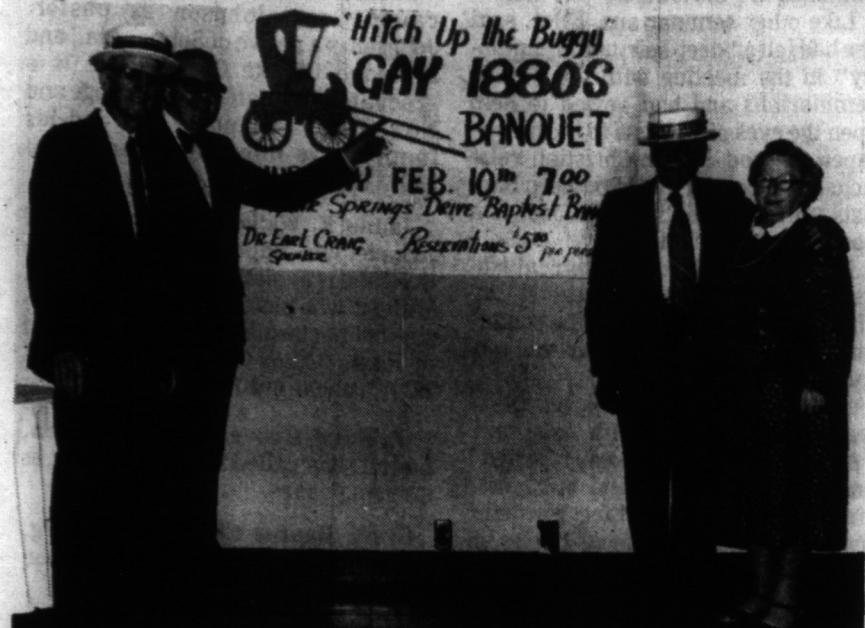
Pitts

Stone students give for hunger

Students at Stone High School in Wiggins sent a check for \$706.43 to the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission to be forwarded to the Southern Baptists' World Hunger Fund. Mrs. Mike Cain is sponsor of the students' devotions committee.

Homecomings

Lake Harbor Church (Rankin): homecoming Feb. 13; James Pugh, former pastor, now pastor in central Florida, preaching at 11 a.m. service; Bill Stout, former pastor, now pastor at Line Creek Church, Pelahatchie, preaching in afternoon service, which will begin at 1:30; dinner on the grounds; Roy Clark, pastor.



Left to right: C. L. Milling, deacon, and Senior Adult Department director; M. J. Harden, minister of education; John Morris, one of the oldest members—90 years and still active and a deacon; Mrs. Myrtle McDevitt, prepares for Gay 1880's banquet in celebration of the centennial year of Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church, Meridian.

Poplar Springs Drive celebrates 100th year

Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church, Meridian, in celebration of its centennial year, has scheduled a church-wide "Gay 1880's" banquet Feb. 10 with the Victorian 1880's theme. Earl Craig, pastor at First Baptist Church, Jackson, will be the speaker. Lamar McDonald, Jr., is the Centennial Committee Chairman.

Recently the senior adult B.A.L.L. Club (Be Active—Live Longer) had as the theme of their monthly meeting, "We Celebrate Your Birthday."

January was observed as the birthday month of the year, and each member received a miniature birthday cake in the motif of his or her birthday month.

Other events planned are a Tasting Bee; revival March 6-9 with Altus Newell, who was reared and surrendered to the ministry at Poplar Springs Drive, as evangelist; and Centennial Day on April 24, and the presentation of the cantata "Kneel at the Cross" under the direction of Harvey Kelly, minister of music. James A. Ruffin is the pastor.

Emogene Harris, missionary to Nigeria, has completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P. O. Box 610, Enugu, Nigeria). She is a native of Johns, Miss.

John and Jean Jacobs, missionaries to Trinidad, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P. O. Box 488, Port of Spain, Trinidad). He is a native of Ohio; and she is from Booneville, Miss.

Curtis and Deanie Ferrell, missionaries to Ecuador, may be addressed at Casilla 328, Cuenca, Ecuador. He was born in Montgomery, Ala., and grew up in Argentina, where his parents were Southern Baptist missionaries. She is from Jackson.

Virgil and Grace Colson, missionary associates to Liberia, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P. O. Box 1416, Monrovia, Liberia).

Liberia). He is a native of Georgia. She was born in Clinton, Miss.

Payton and Helen Myers, missionaries to Nigeria, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: Rt. 1, Box 354, West Point, Miss. 39773). They are both natives of Mississippi.

Phillip and Laura Dunaway, missionaries to Brazil, have arrived on the field to begin language study (address: Caixa 1635, 13100 Campinas, SP, Brazil). They are natives of Mississippi. He was born in Jackson and considers Hattiesburg his hometown. She is the former Laura Lindley of Meridian.

James and Zelma Foster, missionaries to Surinam, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 4233 Carter Circle, Jackson, Miss. 39209), his hometown. She was born in Montrose.

The Honor Roll of churches

"Our annual, January review of cash receipts during the preceding calendar year, and the sources of those receipts, again reminds us that The Baptist Children's Village is BAPTIST, and not just in name only! As an interesting feature of our January 1 evaluation, we prepare a listing of Mississippi Baptist churches which, as church organizations, contributed \$300 or more in designated, cash gifts to the Village's mission ministry, during the preceding year.

We believe that selected sections of this report of "Honor Roll of Churches," which we prepare for the private information of our board of trustees, will be of great interest to the readers of these columns. With gratitude, we share below some financial facts about calendar year 1982 with our friends everywhere.

Remember that this report is based upon gifts received in our offices during calendar year 1982, and has been taken from our bookkeeping records which have not yet been subjected to annual audit.

A. This year, a total of 420 Mississippi Baptist churches and several associations appear on the HONOR ROLL, as compared to a total of 421 in the previous year.

B. A total of 1,527 Mississippi Baptist churches made a designated cash gift in some amount to the Children's Village during 1982, as compared to 1,566 in 1981.

C. 120 Baptist churches made designated, cash gifts aggregating \$1,000 or more during 1982, as compared to 101 churches giving at this level during 1981.

D. Stated in percentages, cash gifts from organized church sources which we received during 1982 amounted to 37 percent of our total receipts in the case of designated, cash gifts, and 16 percent of total receipts, in the case of our Cooperative Program allocation.

Therefore, 53 percent of all cash gifts received by the Children's Village in 1982 originated with Mississippi Baptist churches through the organized group action of those churches! (Obviously, the major share of designated gifts received from individuals originated with individual Baptists.)

E. According to our records, the "top 120" local churches in terms of 1982, cash, designated support of the Village were as follows:

1. FBC, Laurel, Jones
2. FBC, Jackson, Hinds-Madison
3. Fairhaven, Northwest
4. FBC, Gulfport, Gulf Coast

5. FBC, Water Valley, Yalobusha
6. FBC, Vicksburg, Warren
7. Morrison Heights, Hinds-Madison
8. Rolling Creek, Clarke
9. FBC, Greenville, Washington
10. Parkway, Hinds-Madison
11. FBC, Louisville, Winston
12. FBC, Winona, Montgomery
13. Meadville, Franklin
14. FBC, Summit, Pike
15. Forest, Scott
16. FBC, Crystal Springs, Copiah
17. Hollandale, Washington
18. Mt. Zion, Independence, Northwest
19. East Fork, Mississippi
20. Liberty, Mississippi
21. FBC, Aberdeen, Monroe
22. FBC, Meridian, Lauderdale
23. Taylor, Lafayette
24. FBC, McComb, Pike
25. FBC, Indianola, Sunflower
26. FBC, Grenada, Grenada
27. Beulah, Simpson
28. Broadmoor, Hinds-Madison
29. Raymond, Hinds-Madison
30. Calvary, Hinds-Madison
31. Tate Street, Corinth, Alcorn
32. Coffeeville, Yalobusha
33. FBC, Anguilla, Sharkey-Issaak
34. Richton, Perry
35. Temple, Lebanon
36. FBC, Brandon, Rankin
37. FBC, Hattiesburg, Lebanon
38. Macedonia, Lee
39. Edna, Marion
40. Collins, Covington
41. FBC, Florence, Rankin
42. FBC, Amory, Monroe
43. FBC, Olive Branch, Northwest
44. FBC, Poplarville, Pearl River
45. Alta Woods, Hinds-Madison
46. Crowder, Quitman
47. Hathorn, Jeff-Davis
48. Noxapater, Winston
49. Galilee, Mississippi
50. Oakvale, Lawrence
51. FBC, Clinton, Hinds-Madison
52. Union, Clarke
53. Flag Lake, Northwest
54. Macedonia, Union County
55. Harrisburg, Lee
56. Morgantown, Adams
57. Gray's Creek, Northwest
58. Mt. Horeb, Lauderdale
59. North Batesville, Panola
60. FBC, Tupelo, Lee
61. FBC, Corinth, Alcorn
62. FBC, Columbus, Lowndes
63. Oak Forest, Hinds-Madison
64. FBC, Soso, Jones
65. Pleasant Grove, Wayne
66. Ephesus, Scott
67. Fellowship, Lauderdale
68. Temple-Petal, Lebanon
69. Hillcrest, Hinds-Madison
70. Georgetown, Copiah
71. FBC, Pascagoula, Jackson

72. FBC, Batesville, Panola
73. FBC, Itta Bena, Leflore
74. FBC, Magee, Simpson
75. Indian Springs, Jones
76. FBC, Carthage, Leake
77. FBC, Calhoun City, Calhoun
78. Sylvarena, Smith
79. FBC, Natchez, Adams
80. Midway, Lauderdale
81. Main Street, Lebanon
82. Springfield, Scott
83. FBC, Senatobia, Northwest
84. Mantee, Webster
85. FBC, New Albany, Union County
86. FBC, Leland, Washington
87. Gaston, Prentiss
88. Heidelberg, Jasper
89. Shiloh, Calhoun
90. Ridgecrest, Hinds-Madison
91. Griffith Memorial, Hinds-Madison
92. Pearson, Rankin
93. Crestview, Lebanon
94. North Winona, Montgomery
95. Roxie, Franklin

96. Beulah Memorial, Hinds-Madison
97. Fifteenth Avenue, Lauderdale
98. Moorhead, Sunflower
99. FBC, Taylorsville, Smith
100. Plainway, Jones
101. Rienzi, Alcorn
102. Skene, Bolivar
103. West Kemper, Kemper
104. Success, Gulf Coast
105. Salem, Hinds-Madison
106. FBC, Purvis, Lamar
107. Lexie, Walthall
108. FBC, Greenwood, Leflore
109. Hardy, Grenada
110. Unity, Pearl River
111. FBC, Lexington, Holmes
112. Merigold, Bolivar
113. Paul Pruitt, Rankin
114. Macedonia, Lincoln
115. FBC, Macon, Noxubee
116. Oakland, Alcorn
117. Second, Indianola, Sunflower
118. FBC, Starkville, Oktibbeha
119. New Hebron, Lawrence
120. Oak Grove, Simpson



PRETTY ANGELS ALL IN A ROW... watch the manger scene during the chapel Christmas program. The children's Christmas story was directed by Virginia Hunt and enjoyed by residents and visitors at Powell Chapel prior to the Christmas Holidays.

The cost of postage

We understand that some believe we do not have to pay postage.

The Village undertakes to cooperate with its friends and supporters by furnishing business envelopes with our name and address and postage-free privileges already printed thereon. We are glad to offer this service which we expect to continue.

However, we believe friends of our children would like to be reminded that it costs us 24 cents to redeem each

envelope from the post office—four cents more than the cost of a stamp.

Perhaps many of you would like to consider putting a stamp on these envelopes. Some of you might wish to request that we eliminate sending receipts for your gifts altogether.

Our postage and printing costs are very excessive. A stamp on the envelope you use in writing us or sending a gift would help.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

Baptist Children's Village

P. O. Box 11308 Jackson, MS 39213

Living Memorials

Among other high compliments afforded our child care mission, is the increasing practice of individuals who choose the needs of our boys and girls as an appropriate medium through which to honor the lives and influence of their friends and loved ones.

Most frequently, the practice involves gifts of respect to deceased persons, but occasionally the Village's MEMORIAL FUND is favored with a gift of honor—A LIVING MEMORIAL—to a living person.

Each January, we re-examine and review receipts to our MEMORIAL FUND for the preceding year and address a letter of appreciation to those who have used the fund during the year under review.

On Jan. 24, 1983, we posted letters to substantially more than 1,666 people who honored dear ones through a memorial gift to the Village in 1982. Most of these donors gave to the MEMORIAL FUND on several occasions last year.

Unless otherwise instructed by the donor, the proceeds of each memorial

gift are credited toward the expense of affording educational opportunities, including college and vocational training, to Village children and young people.

Our staff gives memorial mail first and "same-day" attention by addressing an appropriate personal letter to the family of the honored individual on the day the gift of memory is received in our offices.

A copy of that letter, together with our official receipt, acknowledging the gift, is mailed to the donor at the same time, along with a convenient envelope, expressly prepared for the use in memorial giving on future occasions.

The Village is honored and humbled in being given the privilege of participating in these sensitive, and, we believe, unusually appropriate expressions of honor, memory and tribute.

If you have not used our MEMORIAL FUND or if you would like to have further information about memorials at The Village, write to us!

"Special projects" and Deanash

Organized groups of Baptist men and women from various local congregations along with some choice individuals have made major contributions to our ministry, especially since 1981, through involvement in an effort which we identify as "Special Projects."

Thus, they invest their vocational skills, especially in the field of construction, and their enthusiasm for missions at The Baptist Children's Village in attending to repair and maintenance needs of our valuable but heavily-used properties.

Those who have already helped us beyond measure at every Village location seem to agree that a work-mission to the Children's Village is a viable and rewarding alternative to a similar trip to out-of-state mission stations. We are grateful.

Since November, we have been at work planning and implementing an early spring use of our beautiful new group home facility at Bond, near Wiggins, which we are calling DEANASH, as requested by Patricia Nash Dean (Mrs. "Dizzy" Dean), the donor.

Dale Clark of Gulfport, joined by an able and interested group of working

men from First Baptist Church, Picayune, have already supplied major assistance to our staff as we continue the task of converting this lovely, private home to use as a group home for children.

Many friends have expressed an interest in this particular "Special Project" and in our household furnishing and equipment needs there, in particular.

A modest sampling of what we will soon be needing at Deanash would include, for example, the following: 10 single beds; 10 night stands; a television set; dishes and tableware, complete, for 15 people; couches and chairs; a small tractor and mower/attachment; two 22" power mowers; a chain saw; a roto-tiller; kitchen appliances; a dishwasher; a 15-passenger van; and many, many other items.

If you and/or your group can and would help us at Deanash in these or other needs which can be listed upon request, contact our staff liaison, who is: Mrs. Ruth Glaze, Director of Church Relations, The Baptist Children's Village, Box 11308, Jackson, Miss., 39213 (phone, 922-2242). Call or write Ruth for details.

Devotional

Pathetic progress

By Earl H. Craig, Jr., pastor
First Church, Jackson
Psalm 127:1

The psalmist reminds us, "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." Our nation must be careful about the object of its trust. That trust cannot be in our wealth or wisdom; in our military or might. It cannot even be in our citizenry!

Our nation was built upon the desire and initiative of individuals. The value of a man was best judged by the question, "Can he do the job?" Industry and business have been intent in knowing the skills of an employee. The bottom line has often been production.

Efficiency and competency have resulted in an amazing civilization. Ours is a civilization that has dreamed "impossible dreams," only to see them become possible. From dream to reality has become our path to progress.

Is it not true, however, that this modern scene brings despair? Has it not been true that much of our so-called progress was pseudo-progress? Man has shortened the space between himself and others. He has lengthened his life. He has found multiple ways to save time. With all his progress, however, man is becoming the victim of that which he has made. The progress made in the laboratory is now turning upon him as a sort of Frankenstein.

In 1924 Winston Churchill, in a prophetic way, said: "Mankind has never been in this position before. Without having improved appreciably in virtue or enjoying wiser guidance, it has got into its hands for the first time the tools by which it can unfailingly accomplish its own extermination."

We are now learning that the character of a man is as important as his skills. We are learning that the desires and motives of an individual are as significant as his abilities. We have seen the dangers inherent in a civilization which is highly skilled in technology but lacking in character. We want to ban saccharin, yet want to legalize marijuana. As one Armed Forces general said: "We have become nuclear giants and ethical infants."

Alfred the Great is reported to have said: "Power is never good unless he be good that has it." Unless man is responsive to the tug of God above, he will be responsive to the tug of evil from below. When the Apostle Paul talked about the war between the flesh and spirit, he had this in mind. In every nation a choice must be made. The choices are only two. Either we shall live life under the guidance of God, or we shall live life under our own guidance.

Those who feel man is supreme are to be pitied. They have not learned from history or experience about the fallibility of man. "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." Progress built on man alone is "pathetic progress."



FAIR RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, recently dedicated its new pastory. The four bedroom, three bath house had been almost completely paid for by the time of dedication. The building committee members were: Iva Nell Foster, chairman, Mary Nations, Pat Hodge, Walter Young, Kathy Ramage, and John Pennington. The pastor is Mike Ramage.

Christian-Jewish dialogue includes Southern Baptists

IRVING, Texas (BP)—Jewish seminary students from New York, Cincinnati, and Philadelphia rubbed shoulders with future Baptist and Methodist preachers and Catholic priests from Texas in a dialogue between young Jewish and Christian seminarians.

The "Seminarian Conference on Jewish and Christian Relations" sponsored by the Council of Southwestern Theological Schools (COSTS), an association of Protestant and Catholic seminaries, and the American Jewish Committee met at Holy Trinity Seminary at the University of Dallas.

Participants included students and faculty members from COSTS seminaries, and the American Jewish Committee met at Holy Trinity Seminary at the University of Dallas.

Texas Christian University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Holy Trinity Seminary, and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and leading theologians, educators and intergroup relations specialists from all parts of the country.

"We have really broken new ground here," said Marc H. Tannenbaum, AJC national director of interreligious affairs. "This is the first time seminarians from Roman Catholic, mainline Protestants, evangelicals, Pentecostals and Jewish communities have come together for dialogue."

Professors from Christian seminaries in the Southwest and from Jewish seminaries in the North and East presented papers on major prob-

lems in Jewish-Christian relations. SWBTS professors were Bobby Adams, Bob Hefflin, and Cecil Roper.

Tannenbaum said the meeting's success was even more significant because it was held in an area where evangelical Christians dominate the religious scene and where Jewish congregations are few. "This is a whole new disciplined way of laying a foundation for the next generation of Christian and Jewish leadership," he said. These kids ten years from now will be running the churches and synagogues of America and also the seminaries. They will fill permanent pulpits and help form the consciences of thousands and thousands of their constituents.

"Most of the Jewish seminarians had never talked to Christian seminarians before," said Tannenbaum. The same could be said of most Christian seminarians in Texas, who never had any meaningful conversations with Jews.

Keynote speaker Carl Van Buren, professor of religion at Temple University, challenged the Christian community to rediscover how Jewish it really was. "Being nice to Jews is not the point," he said, Christians, through seminary teaching and other teaching, needed to become aware of an "amazing reversal that had occurred since Vatican II."

"Both Protestants and Catholics," he said, "have scrapped the old teachings that God has ended his covenant with the Jewish people and made a new covenant with Christians. Now the main

body of Christians believes God's covenant with the Jews is still in effect and will endure forever."

Sam Weintraub, a student at Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, said he had never heard about the kind of Christians he met at the conference—those who show love and respect for the Jewish faith. "The only Christians I had heard of were the ones who had made it so hard on the Jews."

Nancy Ellett, a student at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, admitted she came from a background of religious prejudice. All Jews had formerly been considered as objects of conversions, she said. "We (Baptists) have not always been sure that Catholics are Christians," she said.

Like other seminarians, Ellett said she had felt a "deep spiritual community" in the meeting with the Jewish seminarians and had vowed to help open the eyes of Baptists to the importance of good Jewish-Christian relations. "To a majority of Southern Baptists (Jewish-Christian relations) is a non-issue," she said.

Dayle Rabinowitz, a rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, said she had found the conference to be "an intensive spiritual moment in my life."

"Now I, as a Jew, feel responsible to learn of the Christian faith," she said. "As long as my religion was rejected I could ignore Christianity, but now I find I must find a place for your tradition—not as erroneous but as an authentic expression of religious faith."

"Captain Kangaroo" earns award

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—"Captain Kangaroo" and a CBS television executive will be honored by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission during its 14th Abe Lincoln Awards for distinguished broadcasters, Feb. 17.

Bob Keeshan, creator and host of "Captain Kangaroo," and Gene F. Jankowski, president of the CDS/Broadcast Group, will receive two of the top awards presented by the agency at the annual ceremony.

The Abe Lincoln Awards were created in 1970 to recognize the contributions of radio and TV broadcasters to their communities.

Jankowski's honor, the Distinguished Communications Medal, is the highest accolade given by the RTVC. He will be recognized for encouraging

the broadcast industry "to achieve its potential as a major contributor to the quality of life in America today and tomorrow." The citation also notes Jankowski's sensitivity to the moral values of viewers and his networks commitment to quality news coverage.

Keeshan, who created "Captain Kangaroo" in 1955, will receive the Distinguished Communications Recognition Award for "enhancing the quality of life and contributing to the emotional and ethical growth of the children of this nation." His program, long the mainstay of CBS' morning lineup, is the longest running children's program on network television. It is now seen on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Joseph B. Knight began his ministry Jan. 16 as pastor of Roxie Baptist Church, Franklin County. He is a



Knight
Alabama.

graduate of Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. His previous experience includes pastorates in Mississippi, and service as minister of education in Mississippi and

Providence Church, Bolivar County, has called Noel Brock as pastor. He goes from New Albany, where he has been engaged in full time evangelism. He was previously pastor of Morton Grove Church, Lee County.

Skene Church, Bolivar County, has called Gary Johnson as pastor. Johnson is a native of Selma, Ala., and attended Clarke College. He is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He and his family have moved to Skene from Holly Bluff in Yazoo Association.

James E. Walker, former pastor of Arkadelphia Baptist Church, has retired and is available for pulp supply. Walker, who has spent 31 years in Mississippi pastorates, may be contacted at Route 3, Box 146, Meridian, Miss. 39301 (phone 693-7186).

Oakland Grove Baptist Church, Laurel, has called Lester Gardner as interim pastor.

Grace Baptist Church, Vicksburg, has called Charles Buffkin, Jr. to the ministry of children at Grace.

Rob Davis has resigned as pastor of Cambridge Church, Jackson County, and has accepted a position as associate pastor/youth director at a church in Alabama.

Larry Futral has moved to First Church, Ocean Springs, to begin work as minister of education and music.

Joe Lynn Joiner has resigned the pastorate of Antioch Church, Columbus, to accept the pastorate of Temple Baptist Church, Winnsboro, La.

Keith Reese, new pastor of Bentley Church, Calhoun County, was ordained to the ministry on Feb. 6 at his home church in Chickasaw County.

Henning Andrews has been called as interim pastor of the Westside Baptist Church, Calhoun County. The pastor, Robert McDonald, resigned on Jan. 5.

Hampton Eggerton has resigned as pastor of Pineview Church, Jackson County.

Bible Book

God's sovereign choice

By Joe H. Tutten, pastor,
Calvary, Jackson
Romans 9:1-29

We begin a new unit of Sunday School lessons this week. Our study for the next three weeks has as its theme "Israel in God's Plan," based on Romans 9:1-11:36. This week's lesson, which includes Romans 9:1-29, is entitled "God's Sovereign Choice of Israel." The main thrust of this week's Bible study is that even though Paul was very sorrowful because Israel had rejected Christ, he steadfastly maintained that God's dealings with Israel were totally just.

There may be no question with most of us about God's justice in dealing with Israel. Whatever God does is just in our thinking. The Jews, however, who have a strong sense of being chosen, even today may not accept the persuasion of God's justice as readily as we do.

Paul was keenly and painfully conscious of Israel's rejection of Christ. Even though Christianity had its beginning primarily within Israel, by the time Paul wrote Romans the Jews increasingly were "backing away" from Christianity. Christianity was becoming predominantly a Gentile religion. Israel had been chosen of God from among all nations 2,000 years earlier. Yet, Israel in Paul's day was having little to do with what God was doing in the world through Christ.

Paul's sorrow concerning Israel (9:1-5). God had chosen Israel as a special people. He had chosen Israel through Abraham and through Isaac. God's choice of Israel was clinched historically when he offered the covenant at Sinai (Exodus 19:4-6). He did not choose Israel because of any assets they possessed (Deut. 7:7). He chose them in love (Deut. 7:8), and he chose them so they could be "unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation" (Exodus 19:6). "An holy nation" envisioned that the people of Israel, by uniting with God, would partake of God's holy character. "A kingdom of priests" envisioned that the nation of Israel would aggressively or purposefully share their knowledge of the one true and living God with all other nations.

God's choice of Israel was sovereign for two reasons. First, "sovereign" means "supreme," and God is supreme. Second, "sovereign" means "independent of and unlimited by any others," and God certainly did not seek the advice of anyone in choosing Israel. He chose them in his love. He chose them for his purpose. His purpose concerned the ultimate goal and

well-being of all people through receiving from Israel the revelation and knowledge of God.

Paul openly and publicly admitted his "great heaviness and continual sorrow" over Israel. God had adopted them from among all other nations, shown them his glory, established a covenant with them, given them his law, instructed them in worship, and encouraged them to a life of faith by his promises (Romans 9:4) all to little avail. Israel had scorned God's love.

It was not Israel's past, however, that made Paul's heart ache. His ceaseless sorrow was because of Israel's rejection of Christ. Christ was God's fulfillment of all pertaining to his choice of Israel, the glory, the covenant, the law, the worship, and the promises. Israel was treating God in flesh as they so long had treated God in spirit. Paul's burden was so great that he said, "I could wish myself accursed from Christ for my brethren..." (Romans 9:3).

Of course, Paul could not trade his relationship with Christ for his nation's relationship with Christ. No one can do that, as God made clear to Moses (Exodus 32:31-33). Nor did Paul really make such an offer. He knew better. He said he sometimes felt such a wish within himself. Christ, not Paul, died for Israel's salvation. If and when Israelites or any other people are saved, it will be Christ who saves them and not Paul or any other substitute savior.

God's promise to Israel not broken (9:6-13). This passage has to do with election. The concept of election includes as a minimum love, selection, purpose, promise, certainly and fulfillment. Love is the only attitude the Bible identifies as God's reason for choosing Israel. The Bible does not apologize for the fact of divine selection (9:9-13). Paul reasoned forcefully that God's resourcefulness and faithfulness guarantee fulfillment of his election.

God not unfair in his sovereign choice (9:14-18). Is God unrighteous because he chose Israel and did not choose another nation for his purpose in revealing himself and proclaiming his redemptive love to all? "Absolutely not!" Paul exclaims. The fact that he chose Israel for this very significant purpose does not mean God had no purpose for the other nations. Paul used Pharaoh as an illustration that God has other purposes for other people.

God's right to choose (9:19-26). God has an absolute right to choose among people and give his differing purposes

Uniform

Observing the Supper

By John G. Armistead, pastor,
Calvary, Tupelo
Luke 22:1-2, 7-20

That very sacred and holy occasion when believers come to the Lord's table to share the cup and bread is called by various names. Some call it "communion," a term from the Greek word *koinonia*, "fellowship," because of the fellowship we have with Christ and each other in this meal. Others call it the "eucharist," a term from the Greek word for "thanksgiving," because of our thanks to God for his grace expressed in Christ's death. Others call it the "sacrament," from the Latin sacramentum, which means a pledge of allegiance. Baptists generally prefer the name "Lord's Supper," which stresses the memorial aspects of the ordinance. In this meal especially do we remember him and his sacrifice for us.

In this passage we find Luke's account of that last meal Jesus shared with his disciples before his death. There are several things to be seen about Jesus as he prepares for and carries out his final Passover meal.

I. We see how Jesus works on in spite of trouble (22:1,2). As the high holy day of Passover approached the Jewish authorities intensified their efforts to have Jesus killed. Because of his vast popularity with the common people, they were afraid to have him arrested openly and sought some more devious means. That means soon became available when Judas, one of Jesus' own followers, decided to betray him.

Jesus was well aware of the hatred of his enemies and their plot against his life. They had already tried to kill him several times before. He was also aware of the defection of Judas and that the danger had become critical.

In spite of this extremely stressful situation, Jesus carries on with his plans and his work. He is determined to have this special meal with his followers in Jerusalem. He does not run to safety. He does not allow himself to be sidetracked.

to different people because he created all people (9:20). Who has reason to complain because God takes some nobodies (no people) and makes them into somebodies (children of the living God) (9:25-26)?

A remnant to be saved (9:27-29). Though most of Israel were rejecting Christ, Paul reiterated what Isaiah and other prophets had said, namely, that a remnant would be saved. This was God's guarantee of his sovereign choice.

So it is that we must carry on with the work God has given us to do in spite of difficulties. Our troubles may or may not be life-threatening, but no matter how severe the trial we must carry on.

II. We see how Jesus remains in control (22:7-14). Jerusalem at Passover would be crowded with over two and a half million people. Finding accommodation would not be easy. Consequently Jesus had already made advance arrangements for such a room and developed a strategy whereby those two disciples he sent to make final preparations could find it. A man bearing a jar of water (a most unusual sight, as only women carried jars of water) would lead them to the proper place.

Why all the secrecy? Why did not Jesus simply tell them the exact location? Probably because the greedy ears of Judas were listening. Such a place would be an ideal spot for him to be trapped by his enemies and Jesus did not wish to be disturbed. He still had much to say to them (four chapters of teaching in John's gospel) and was assuring an uninterrupted, private meal. He remained in control. He would surely die but in his own way and at his own time. They would not take his life. He would give it.

III. We see how Jesus desires to have fellowship with his followers (22:15-18). Once in the room Jesus tells them how intensely he has "desired" to have this meal with them (v. 15). Elsewhere in the New Testament this work is translated "lust" (Matt. 5:28). Only the context determines whether it means good or evil. Here it accentuates the deep longing in Jesus' heart to have fellowship with his followers before the horrors of the cross. Such desire is, of course, rooted in his love. He has the same intense desire to have fellowship with us and even with those who have not yet come into God's family.

IV. We see how Jesus wants to be remembered (22:19,20). At the supper Jesus told them the bread and wine represented his body and blood. As such, they point to the violence of the death he suffered for believers. As he instituted this meal he said, "This do in remembrance of me" (v. 19). In other words, Jesus wanted to be remembered by a meal which pointed to his death. He wanted to be remembered for his sacrifice of love which brings us to God, firmly rooted in a New Covenant sealed in his own blood. The Lord's Supper insures we shall never forget.

Life and Work

Seek righteousness first

By Beverly V. Tinnin, pastor,
First, Meridian
Matthew 5:6; 6:25-34; 13:45-46

Peace of mind has been the object of many people's quest for a long time. There was a Jewish lad who made a list of what he thought to be the essential "goods" of life. His list included wealth, health, power, friends, family and many other things. He showed his list to the Rabbi and asked, "Wouldn't a person automatically be happy and successful if he possessed all these things?"

The Rabbi studied the list and then shook his head. He wrote three words at the top of the lad's list. They were "peace of mind." The Rabbi observed, "Although a man may have a bank vault full of money and possess these other things, if his mind is troubled and his heart is heavy he is a miserable failure in life." The boy grew up to be Dr. Liebmann who wrote one of the all time best sellers, *Peace of Mind*.

It is apparent that people want peace of mind but to assume that they are finding it would be a big mistake.

The Father's provisions for his children (6:25,26)

Jesus is warning against undue anxieties that serve no useful purpose on the part of his children. To the contrary, they render a person unfit to handle the situations that arise each day. He does not hold up as a blueprint for life the way of the grasshopper. The ant's way is the right way. People are to be busy and making plans for the future. But they are to avoid crippling worries that may result in a fractured personality (split one). He was not preaching indifference to physical needs, but faith in God and commitment to him.

God's care for all creation (6:27-34)

Worry has never extended the lifespan of anyone. To the contrary, many have gone to the grave prematurely because of undue anxieties.

Consider the field flowers whose beauty does not result from any effort on their part. God creates and gives beauty. Without a care in the world the blossoms live and brighten the landscape. The flowers live only briefly and then are gone. If God provides for these, how much more does he take care of the only creature made in his own image.

Pagans worry about food, drink, and clothing, Jesus said. Experiencing the love of God should free us from such crippling problems.

The parable of the pearl of great price (13:45,46)

Jesus illustrates the point that a business person seeking a good deal when

finding it will take the big plunge. Opportunity may knock only once, so even though the price was all his wealth he sacrificed all to gain ownership. He was confident the pearl was worth far more than he paid for it.

Jesus pointed out not only what the pearl merchant should do, but what he does. By the same token a disciple sees the kingdom, recognizes its worth and does whatever is necessary to receive it.

Hunger and thirst after righteousness (5:6)

It is difficult for well fed moderns to catch the force Jesus intended this beatitude to convey. For his day the people lived on the edge of the desert. They knew malnutrition first hand from poverty and famine. Many starved to death. Even more dreaded was the torture of being on the desert without water. The lips would crack, the tongue swell, and even the ability to talk was lost. To people acquainted with true hunger and thirst Jesus said, "If you're dying for food and drink of the gospel variety, you will be filled."

The drive for salvation is compelling and recurring. When this is a person's yearning he will have it.

Bunker Hill burns note at centennial

Bunker Hill Baptist Church, Marion County, recently celebrated its 100th anniversary with approximately 700 members and guests in attendance, including the following former pastors: David J. Perry, Brookhaven; L. C. Hoff, Eudora, Ark.; H. B. Speights, Franklin, La.; and H. D. Jordan, Memphis, Tenn.

The centennial day initiated a five day revival effort led by D. J. Benson, Laurel, and Leon Westerhouse, Birmingham, Ala.

A meal was provided in the Family Activity Center adjacent to the church.

Centennial services commemorating the 100-year history of the church were held in the afternoon. During this time a note burning ceremony signified that the \$400,000.00 church plant was debt free only 15 months after its completion.

The church has a current total membership of approximately 450, and provides a comprehensive program of Christian education and recreation for all age groups, reports Bob Kendrick, pastor.